



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

May 31, 2016

Subject: Message to drinking water certified laboratories from Ron Falco, P.E., Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

Dear Laboratory Director:

The recent events with lead in Flint Michigan highlighted the importance of safe drinking water for citizens across the nation and brought long-needed attention to the complexity and implementation challenges with the lead and copper rule (LCR). The Flint Water Advisory Task Force (FWATF) convened in October 2015 to conduct an independent review of the contamination of the Flint water supply: what happened, why it occurred and what is needed to prevent a reoccurrence. In its final report, [March 2016 FWATF Final Report](#), the task force recommends that sampling protocols be clarified and reiterated and not include any flushing of water lines in a home prior to the minimum six-hour stagnation period. EPA's recent recommendations regarding lead and copper tap sampling are consistent with this recommendation ([February 29, 2016 EPA WSG 197 Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule](#)).

Over the last few months, as part of a national EPA directive, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (department) has been communicating with EPA Region 8 and the Colorado Water Utility Council regarding LCR implementation in Colorado. In February 2016, EPA contacted all states and encouraged them to ensure that the LCR is being implemented correctly and to assure that the public health risks associated with lead in drinking water are addressed. As part of our continuing work in assessing and enhancing Colorado's LCR implementation, the Department updated its lead and copper tap sampling guidance ([Lead and Copper Sample Collection Instructions](#)). Specifically, the Department removed reference to flushing water lines prior to the six-hour stagnation period. We understand that this raises issues and concerns with the sampling, but we believe that this is the appropriate course of action to take at this time to be consistent with national standardized sampling practices. The Department asks that certified laboratories please incorporate EPA's recent recommendations and our new sampling guidance into the materials that they provide to water systems and residents regarding lead and copper tap sampling procedures.

Also, please stay tuned for more communications from us as new information becomes available. The department's safe drinking water electronic mailing list (listserve) is a great way to ensure that you receive updates when they are available. Please visit the department's website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/drinking-water-training-opportunities> to sign up.

Thank you for all that you do to help protect public health by helping water systems meet the requirements in the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Regulation 11).



May 31, 2016

Subject: Message to drinking water systems from Ron Falco, P.E., Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

Hello:

The recent events with lead in Flint Michigan highlighted the importance of safe drinking water for citizens across the nation and brought long-needed attention to the complexity and implementation challenges with the lead and copper rule (LCR). The Flint Water Advisory Task Force (FWATF) convened in October 2015 to conduct an independent review of the contamination of the Flint water supply: what happened, why it occurred and what is needed to prevent a reoccurrence. In its final report, [March 2016 FWATF Final Report](#), the task force recommends that sampling protocols be clarified and reiterated and not include any flushing of water lines in a home prior to the minimum six-hour stagnation period. EPA's recent recommendations regarding lead and copper tap sampling are consistent with this recommendation ([February 29, 2016 EPA WSG 197 Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule](#)).

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The Department asks water systems and operators to incorporate EPA's recent recommendations into their lead and copper tap sampling procedures and to utilize our sampling guidance when providing instructions to residents.

Please...

- Review the LCR section of your Monitoring Plan and ensure that your sample pool contains the minimum number of sample sites and that all of your sample sites meet the sample site selection criteria per Regulation 11.26(2)(a). Visit our website for [information and forms](#) that will assist you or call us.
- If your LCR sample sites need to be updated, submit a Sample site change form as soon as possible.
- Provide the results for all lead and copper tap samples to residents no later than 30 days after you receive the results.
- Stay tuned for more communications from us as new information becomes available.

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Thank you for all that you do to help protect public health and meet the requirements in the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Regulation 11).